GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local History Bulletin

SPRING 1974 — No. 29

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EDITORIAL

I AM DELIGHTED to congratulate the Dean Forest Guardian on achieving its Centenary. I do not know how we should have accomplished our first plunge into print without Mr John Bright, and his extraordinary helpfulness. He is of course a descendant of the founder of the newspaper, Mr Thomas Bright, who published the first number in July 1874.

A special and highly successful Local History Exhibition and Conference was held at the Ridings School, Winterbourne, on 30th March when to mark the occasion of the transfer of the area to the new County of Avon, members of Local History Societies in the area mounted a far more ambitious programme than usual. A new Local History Committee for Avon is now in being, and we wish it every success.

Included also in this number is an article by Mr Kenneth Brown, Keeper of the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, who writes on another successful Exhibition held there from 19th January to 23rd February. Taking the theme of "6,000 years of Man" and with exhibits from the Museum's own collections of artifacts and material, there was much to interest the local historian. Included also in the article are details of the Hill Fort at Crickley Hill revealing a major site of great archaeological importance, and investigations of the Romano-British site at Wycomb and Andoversford.

MERCEDES MACKAY,

Honorary Editor.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

This depicts St. Arilda's Church, Oldbury-on-Severn, which stands on a pre-Roman site at the top of a hill, a landmark on both sides of the river Severn. The tower formerly held a spire which collapsed in the great gale of 1704, which also carried away the first Eddystone lighthouse with its designer Winstanley in it and killed the Bishop of Bath and Wells in his Palace.

The restoration was not achieved until 1717 and it is recorded that a collection at Croxhall Church, Derbyshire, for the rebuilding of St. Arilda's brought in 1s. 6d., and another at Margate 6s. 2d. A feature of the Church after the restoration was the triple barrel roofs which were leaded, and the outside walls of the Church which were whitewashed as a guide to the ships on the river. It was a lovely building and inside were high box pews. At one time the only heat was a stove in the centre of the Church and people used to stand around and warm themselves before they went into their boxes and shut themselves in. On 31st October, 1907 villagers were awakened early on Sunday morning and saw that the Church was on fire. It had been burning for several hours and any hope of saving anything was quite out of the question. On this occasion it took two years to achieve the restoration during which time services were held in the School.

(Cover drawing by Gill Griffiths)

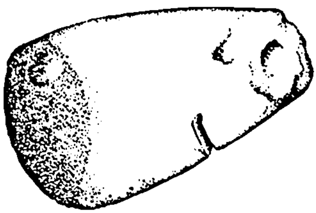
6,000 YEARS OF MAN — ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CHELTENHAM AREA

(An exhibition was held at the Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham, from 19th January to 23rd February, 1974.)

MOST OF THE exhibits — actual or replicas — came from our own collections — some were loaned by private individuals or institutions. Much of the material was typical of that yielded by excavation, as chance surface finds or turned up by the plough. Displays were completed with explanatory text, illustrations and, where appropriate, air photographs. The time-span chosen overlaps the earliest archaeological period for which we have much evidence of man's activities in this area — the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age. Undoubtedly the museum collections are strongest in prehistoric and Romano-British material, but all periods up to Late-Medieval were represented in the exhibition, with a more modern 'footnote' by the Industrial Archaeologists.

The underlying aim of the exhibition was to illustrate the wealth of antiquities in the area, to keep archaeology 'on view' and maintain public interest at a crucial time when economic stringency, local government reorganisation and the urgent needs of Rescue Archaeology had all to be reconciled.

The Museum has more Mesolithic flints than previously supposed — adding a number of Cotswold sites to the evidence for a people who lived by hunting in the encroaching forests and by fishing, between the end of the Ice Age (10,000 B.C.) and the beginnings of agriculture around 4,000 B.C. Excavation at the old gravel workings, Syreford, near Andoversford, has yielded similar flints, contributing to an interesting display.


POLISHED STONE AXE — FROM SALTERLEY GRANGE.

A brief introduction to the Neolithic (New Stone Age) mentioned the first farmers in Southern Britain and illustrated examples of the Severn-Cotswold chambered tombs. It was accompanied by a display of flint-working, including a recent study showing that flint axes broken in use were re-worked into other tools, which would account for the scarcity of whole axes in this region. Axes of polished flint or stone are, of course, evidence of tree clearance by early farming communities — the economy represented by a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, perhaps of about 3,500 B.C., excavated on Crickley Hill.

Another line of research on Neolithic polished axes involves cutting thin slices from stone axes and examining them under the petrological microscope. This identifies the kind of rock of which the axe is made and in some instances enables its source outcrop to be recognised. At some of these localities roughed-out axes and quarrying debris are evidence of axe factories. Axes are often found at great distances from factory sites showing that there were well-established trading routes over land and sea between different parts of prehistoric Britain. The results obtained from sectioning stone axes found in South-Western England are published in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society. Before the 5th report was published in 1972 only four axes from Cheltenham Museum had been sectioned. Fourteen more, including four shaft-hole implements, were 're-discovered' in 1970 and sent for examination, whilst another axe, found during excavations on the A.40 Andoversford by-pass brought the total to 19. They were displayed in two groups accompanied by text and maps, one showing the source rocks of certain axes, which demonstrated effectively the distances some had been traded.

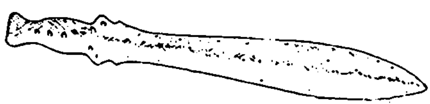
The pottery known as Grooved Ware provides an intriguing link between Southern Britain and Skara Bray, Orkney, where it also occurs in the late Neolithic settlement, well known for its houses with built-in stone furniture. A sherd of this pottery from Bourton-on-the-Water is evidence of the phase in the Cotswolds.

Towards the end of the Neolithic period metal-working was introduced to the British Isles by the migrant Beaker folk, known for their tradition of single burial, often with grave goods, including the distinctive pots called 'beakers'. Detailed study of beaker decoration here and on the continent suggests that they were introduced around 2,000 B.C. from areas between the Rhine and the Elbe, giving rise to local series. Beakers from burials at Barnwood and Bourton-on-the-Water belong to two such regional series.

BEAKER FOUND WITH BURIAL AT BARNWOOD.

Two pots of the Collared Urn series containing cremated bones are evidence of an alternative burial custom. Both were found near Bourton-on-the-Water associated with circular ditches in the gravel, almost certainly the remains of round barrows reduced by ploughing. Thus as well as representing the Early Bronze Age in our exhibition, they illustrate how modern agriculture can destroy field monuments.

In 1972, whilst rolling a field of winter wheat, on Nottingham Hill, a young farm worker found two Late Bronze Age swords — the first recorded in Gloucestershire. Subsequent excavation on the site revealed a group of bronze objects that had accompanied the swords. Few such groups have been systematically excavated, which makes the find all the more important. The swords are of a type widely distributed in Britain and the find as a whole may be dated to the 8th century B.C. From the beginning this discovery has been a good example of co-operation between all concerned. The landowner, Mr David Abbatt, of Langley Hill Farm, very generously offered the group on long-term loan to the Museum, where they formed an eye-catching part of the exhibition.



LATE BRONZE AGE SWORD FROM NOTTINGHAM HILL, GOTHERINGTON.

Some hill-forts, hitherto regarded as typical of the Iron Age, are now known to have originated in the Bronze Age, so it seems not unlikely that these periods merged with little change. The Late Bronze Age metalwork from Nottingham Hill could be contemporary with occupation of that hill-fort. Certainly the fortified long house settlement on Crickley Hill was built and occupied at some time between 900 and 600 B.C. A highlight of the exhibition was an eight foot long reconstruction of the Crickley Hill long-house settlement beautifully made by Robin Turner of the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design and his wife Elizabeth. Currently Late Bronze and Iron Age societies are seen as consisting of peasant farmers and herdsmen, supporting a warrior aristocracy and their retainers — metalworkers and perhaps potters, builders and bards. It is assumed that they occupied the hill-forts, but it is not yet certain whether the peasantry also lived in them.

Investigation of the Romano-British site at Wycomb, Andoversford, originated from route development schemes. When the Kingham-Andoversford railway crossed the land in the 1860's an excavation by the landowner, W. Lawrence Esq., revealed a Roman settlement with a temple. A century later rescue excavation on the Andoversford by-pass confirmed evidence from air photographs that the built-up area stopped short of the new road. Pottery and small finds from pits and ditches span the whole occupation period to the early 5th century. Six skeletons lying close to the river hint at an end to the settlement, perhaps through violence or epidemic. Miss Evans-Lawrence has kindly allowed excavation at Syreford gravel pits which cover the settlement's burial ground. Finds and plans from the excavation were displayed.

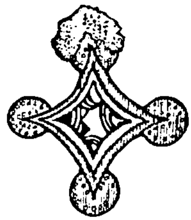
In 1968 the Natural Gas pipe trench intersected part of a stone building near Wadfield Roman Villa. Excavation revealed the walls of a probable outbuilding. Fragments of pottery and building materials, typical of the surface evidence for a site, made an instructive exhibit.

Building materials and iron tools from other villa sites, with text and illustration provided a background to the countryside in Roman Britain. Samian pottery found locally showed a variety of this imported tableware, useful in dating Roman sites. Examples of stamped tiles used in roofing, floor pillars and flues imply organised industry. Fourteen different stamps occur in Gloucestershire, representing makers' initials. Current research suggests co-existence of certain factories and preferred distribution of some stamps.

Religion in Roman Britain was represented by metalwork and sculptures portraying classical and native deities. The Corinium Museum, Cirencester, kindly loaned a relief sculpture, excavated in 1972 depicting the Genii Cucullati — hooded spirits, well represented on Cotswold reliefs. Two small altars, crudely decorated with figures of Minerva and Mars, were displayed effectively against a background of flickering red light. They were made available by Chedworth Roman Villa.

Digging foundations for new buildings at Hill Farm, Willersey, in June 1968, uncovered two skeletons and, close by, 56 Roman silver coins and a silver ring, subsequently declared Treasure Trove. The coins, of Constantius II and Julian II are of the period A.D. 360-363. They and the skeletons are displayed in the Museum; photographs were shown in the exhibition.

The Migration period was represented by finds from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, revealed in 1969 by sand quarrying near Bishops Cleeve and excavated by the Museum. Decorative styles of brooches found with the burials suggest a late 6th century date. Two gilded bronze saucer brooches with animal design resemble a pair from Fairford. An unusual cross-shaped brooch with few known parallels is illustrated. Evidence from this and other sites suggests that early Saxon penetration was via the Upper Thames.



AN UNUSUAL CROSS-SHAPED BROOCH FROM AN ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY, BISHOPS CLEEVE.

Stone canopy-work, loaned by Hailes Abbey, complemented a selection of the museum's floor tiles from the site, chosen to illustrate decorative techniques. Brass rubbings from Northleach Church, depicting 15th century wool merchants, completed the exhibition, which attracted 6,098 visitors.

KENNETH W. BROWN

with assistance from BERYL ELLIOTT.

Illustrations by W. BOONE, ESQ.

UNEASE AT THE INN

TAKING ONE'S EASE at the inn sounds a pleasant pastime, though in other days it needed some toughness of body and mind. Diarist Pepys reports of a night at an inn, "Slept well, beds good but lousy, which caused us much merriment." William Cobbett, in sterner mood, was reluctant to leave his room by the only exit through "a chamber where there might be a lady actually in bed."

Beyond such small problems lay the tentacles of licensing laws, twining their way between drunkenness and abstinence.

Inns were old when, in 1393, it was decreed that publicans must display a sign of their trade. This was intended to check evasion of the law, but it must have been a help to travellers when street names were seldom displayed and numbering unknown. Take a notice in a paper of the 18th century: "At her house the Red Ball and Acorn, over against the Globe tavern, in Queen St. near the Three Crowns, liveth a gentlewoman." With directions like that who could fail?

A severe sanction on any licensee was the removal of his sign. Records show that the licensing authority for Gloucester, in 1633, restrained the proprietor of the New Inn from using his tennis court and ordered his sign to be pulled down.

At Cirencester, 1618, the Beadle of the Beggars was ordered to report all alehouse keepers who entertain in their houses such persons as in their drunkenness spend their earnings without care of wife and children at home, to the end that they may be made known to the justices and no longer licensed to keep victualling.

In 1612, the assize judges ordered that there should be only one alehouse per village and two per market town. Licences to be given only to people of "good conversation".

Still in the same century, a man in Gloucester was forbidden to sell ale because there had been quarrelling in his house the same day that a murder had been committed.

Sunday has always induced mixed thinking in this direction. In Gloucester brewers were not allowed to send out ale or beer on Sundays, and no one might come in and get it, on penalty of £5. Here it is well to remember that brewers were not as we think of them today. Nearly all licensed houses did their own brewing, as did most of the bigger private houses and farms.

Tewkesbury was rather more permissive than Gloucester, insisting only that tavern keepers must keep their street doors shut during divine service, and must not allow drinking or gaming indoors.

At Berkeley there must have been some dissatisfaction with the landlord of the "local", for a petition to the licensing authority stated: "Our desire is that the King's liege people in their travels might have entertainment which at that place as it now standeth they cannot have".

For no obvious reasons Northleach had elaborate zoning laws in the seventeenth century. No inns were allowed in certain streets, or in that part of the town towards Cheltenham — except the Antelope (now Wheatsheaf). Also, no one other than a child or servant of the house might enter or leave except by the front door. And no inn keeper might lodge a guest until he had notified the town authorities, on pain of losing his licence.

Contrasting with all these prohibitions we have an account from Bibury of personal attention in 1635, when Robert Bennett sold a "small sort of drink at 3 pence a gallon, and a stronger brew at such price as he might get". It seems that the price of this stronger brew did not keep the customers away for: "Company have departed late at night so drunk that Robert Bennett did go after them for fear some of them would fall in the river, or into some other danger."

Collected by F. W. BATY.

"FROM 1821 TO the date of the next population returns [1831] the town underwent very extensive alterations. This period may indeed be distinguished as, above all others, that in which Cheltenham most rapidly developed its resources and attained to a celebrity which it has not even since surpassed, though its borders have been greatly enlarged and the number of its inhabitants mightily increased." [H. Davies, *The Stranger's Guide* (1843).]

The following extracts have been taken more or less at random from contemporary sources. They are reproduced without comment since they largely speak for themselves.

"Cheltenham has now, with its twenty thousand inhabitants, assumed the aspect of a city . . . It has its abundantly supplied markets, its arcades and bazaars, botanic gardens, and riding schools, its numerous and liberally supported charitable establishments, and its capacious and commodious hotels, at and from which near seventy coaches are daily arriving and departing; many of its mansions may almost be termed palaces, and its elegant villas are innumerable." [S. Y. Griffith, *New Historical Description of Cheltenham* (1826).]

"Cheltenham . . . is not without the usual imperfection of English towns, a miserable *entree* of shabby houses . . . It is vexatious to enter palaces through a rank and file of pig-sties; but it is sufficient to know that, if a poor man is an Englishman, the Constitution gives him rank in society . . . We can only wish that such useful persons had better dwellings in other situations." [T. D. Fosbroke, *A Picturesque and Topographical Account of Cheltenham* (1826).]

Bettison, Bookseller, Publisher and Stationer to Field Marshal his Grace the Duke of Wellington: Bookbinder and copper plate printer: Smyth's, Gattie's, Rigge's and Delcroix's Perfumery: Genuine Patent Medecine Warehouse: Libraries or small parcels of Books purchased or exchanged: Coal Merchant: Agent for the sale of the East India Company's Teas. [Advertisement, 1826.]

"Cheltenham has been much famed as a place of residence for single men, excess of dress, and an endless rage for walking. The diurnal of a regular would run thus: From seven to nine, the Wells, waters, and music, at least one hour's expatiation; ten to eleven, breakfast, medical consultations, and liver diseases; eleven to one, auctions at the [Assembly-] Rooms, Colebrook-Dale ware, paintings, ladies' apparel, or jewellery for sale; one to three, billiard-rooms or libraries; three to five, 'tooling' nymphs of fashion 'over the stones', or 'a drag' from a Stanhope to a four-in-hand up and down the High Street; six, dinner; eight to nine the theatre, or *soirees* with music, conversation, or fire-works at Weller's, Bettison's, or Williams', alias the Wells and full dress; ten, a rout, a singing lady at a corner of a room, an array of standing or seated listeners; two or three card-tables, tea and coffee, perhaps quadrilles; silence broken by the footman bawling at the door the names of every party as they arrive; flirting and ogling; wine, cakes, confectionaries, &c. and off! On such occasions drawing-rooms are sometimes so overflowed that the superfluities are deposited on the staircases. Otherwise walking, and segars; or the Rooms and 'fascinating games', e.g. hazard, *l'ecarte*, blind-hookey &c., followed by emptied pockets, distracted minds, morning horrors, agitated nerves, loosened principles, profligate society, and increasing incapacity of resisting a ruinous infatuation." [Fosbroke, *ibid.*]

"Where pleasurable habits, diversified amusements, successive public spectacles, and general luxury exist, it must be expected that local habits should rather be superficial and gay, than permanent and grave. Among all classes idleness seems to be more copied than vice." [Fosbroke, *ibid.*]

"At Cheltenham where debauchery has reached its acme, and modest women are not safe in the streets, the unfortunate class of women before alluded to ['Women of the Town'], (unless they can afford to bribe the constables), are regularly taken up; the moral character of man must be altered ere the necessity of them can be done away with." [Private letter, April 1824.]

"A system of good order and peace appears to be preserved without any extraordinary exertions. Upon the whole much credit is due to the police, which is sufficiently vigilant and ubiquitarian. Tacitus mentions the disturbance caused by the assemblings of plebeians in Rome at the corners of streets, but this nuisance, which is so much in operation in so many places, especially Brighton and Worthing, occurs not in Cheltenham." [Fosbroke, *ibid.*]

William Pope, aged 25, Seth Purnell, aged 19, William Jenkins, aged 22, charged with having on the night of Saturday, the 17th September 1825, in company with a great many others, violently, riotously and tumultuously assaulted James Sadler, John Fletcher, and William Cole, constables of Cheltenham, and resisted them in the execution of their duty. [Calendar of prisoners awaiting trial, 1825.]

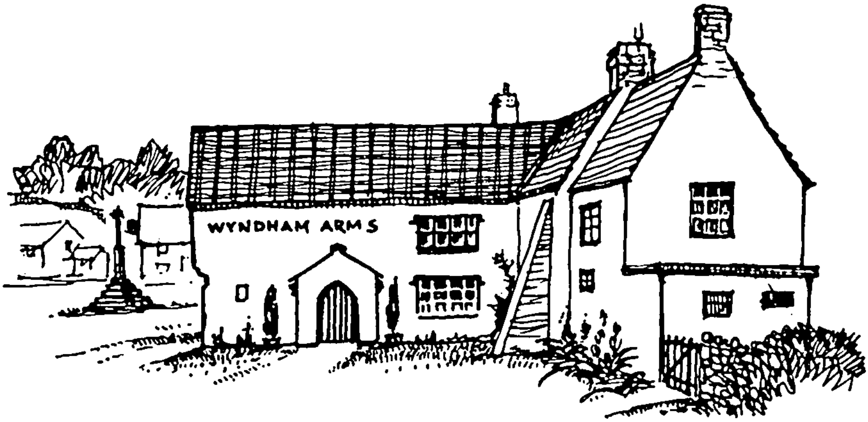
J. Maggs Undertaker, Mercer, Draper & Haberdasher, 300 High St., Cheltenham. Every description of Family Mourning, A complete assortment of Haberdashery & Silk Mercery, Table & House Linens, Sheetings, Counterpanes, Blankets &c. &c. Manufacturer of Silk & Cotton Hose, Ladies and Gentlemans Under Clothing &c. Genuine Teas. [Bill-head, 1821.]

"Fairs. Four nuisances of this description are held here for the sale of cattle, cheeses &c. . . . These affairs are unwisely suffered in the High Street and other streets. Boths, yockles, ballad-singers, show-keepers, fighers, country wenches, smock-vendors, horses and other cattle, trotting and trampling in all directions . . . are in no respect suited in character or kind to Cheltenham. Towards the end of the day . . . some scenes have been witnessed by the author for which a thousand shoes and stockings ought to have been filled in an instant with water from the town pipes, and a certain wooden receptacle underwritten 'Beware' well supplied with arms and legs." [Fosbroke, *ibid.*]

"There are four fairs held here annually, for the disposal of all sorts of cattle, cheese, etc. It forms a very striking, curious, and amusing sight, to behold the mixture of London elegance with Gloucestershire fashion, and the crowding together of rustic lads and Bond-street beaux — of rural lasses and London belles." [G. A. Williams, *A New Guide to Cheltenham*, (1825).]

"Cheltenham is a nasty, ill-looking place, half clown and half cockney." [William Cobbett, *Rural Rides*, (1821).]

STEVEN TOMLINSON.



AN OLD FOREST MANOR

IT WAS KING Henry III who granted to Robert of Wakering "Land for building at Wellington" near the church "which he hath newly builded there so that he may build houses" and it is obvious that the site was determined by the excellent perennial stream which still issues from the hillside in the village which now bears the name of Clearwell.

Close to the well and in the middle of the village stands the inn, and there is a local tradition that the oldest parts of the house date from 1340, and though this may seem extravagant there may be a good deal of truth in the claim.

In medieval days it was the custom for the "lord" to have his "hall" in the middle of the community whose dwellings clustered round it, and for the villagers to be free to use the hall as a place of refuge from possible attack, and for common resort.

Such a hall need not have been a permanent home, since many lords held more than one manor, passing from one to another as occasion required. Of the past lords of Clearwell the Greyndours also held Abenhall and so did the Baynhams to whom the estates passed. It was in later days that one of the Baynhams is described as being "of Clearwell" and from them the lands passed to the Throckmortons who also held lands elsewhere.

A small manor such as Clearwell in earlier days would have needed no more than the usual apartment where the lord might reside for a while, hold his courts, and punish the guilty, and the older folk say of the inn yard that "It was there they used to hang people."

Recently the inn has undergone a very complete restoration. The walls have been stripped down to the stone, and in the process an early stone arched doorway was uncovered in the wing. It was immediately adjacent to the frame of a Tudor window and apparently it was blocked when the window was inserted. This arch corresponds in shape with the niches in the Fourteenth century village Cross which stands just outside.

It is suggested that this wing was the original hall of the village. It probably possessed additional partments such as a solar and some domestic portions, but these would have been swept away at a later date when the principal part of the house, which is good Tudor work, was built.

During the Seventeenth century when it was the fashion for the lord to remove from the village and build a manor house just outside, as we see in so many English villages, a large house was built on the hillside above the village as the earlier "Clearwell Court". This is the house illustrated in "Atkyns' History" although by the time that the book was published, this house had been demolished and the present Court or Castle was built by one of the Wyndhams who had inherited the property.

The sequence seems to have been that the original hall was adequate for the purposes of the earlier lords who would have required little more than a "pied a terre" but when Sir Christopher Baynham came there to reside he built on the Tudor portion and restored the old building in the contemporary style.

Later on when the fashion for building manor houses developed, and the necessity for having an eye for defence against raiders had diminished, the first Court was erected and the family removed into it, leaving a substantial building continuing the old practices of being a place of resort, in the middle of the village, while its tenant, out of compliment to the family, would display the lord's escutcheon — here, "The Wyndham Arms."

R. J. MANSFIELD.

THE LAST DUEL IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE?

IT IS FORTUNATE that a question mark appeared in the heading of this article in the previous number of the Bulletin for Mr Lionel F. J. Walrond, Curator of the Stroud Museum, has pointed out that a further duel, or rather an attempted one, took place on 14th August, 1807 some two years after the alleged insult involving the officers and gentlemen of the Kings Stanley Rifle Corps, the subject of our earlier article. Once again the military were involved.

61st Foot, Maida (1806): Officer

In 1807 recruiting on an extensive scale for the wars against Napoleon took place and a number of officers and non-commissioned officers were stationed in Stroud for this purpose. Two of the officers, a Lieutenant Heazle of the 3rd Regiment (The Royal East Kent Regiment) and Lieutenant Delmont of the 82nd Foot (2nd Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment) were friends and had dined together on the afternoon of 14th August, after which they went for a walk appearing to be at the time on the best of terms. Delmont however made some remarks to Heazle during the walk which led to an exchange for which an apology was demanded, it was believed that the remarks concerned a lady known to both. Delmont refused to give an apology

In the south west corner of the churchyard of the parish church there is an inscription:—

'Here lie the remains of Lieutenant Joseph Francis Delmont of His Majesty's 82nd Regiment, born 25th November 1785, died 18th August 1807.'

MURDER

40 guineas reward

Whereas Lieutenant Benjamin Heazle of his Majesty's Third Regiment of Foot (or Old Buffs) and Leiutenant John Serjeaunt of his Majesty's Sixty-first Regiment of Foot, lately recruiting at Stroud in the County of Gloucester, severally stand charged upon the Coroner's Inquest with the WILFUL MURDER of Lieutenant Joseph Francis Delmont, late of his Majesty's Eighty-second Regiment of Foot, and have both absconded and fled from Justice.

Whoever will apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, the said Benjamin Heazle and John Sarjeaunt and safely lodge them in any one of his Majesty's gaols of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland shall receive a reward of TWENTY GUINEAS for each offender; to be paid on application to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish of Stroud; or to Mr. Newman, their Solicitor of the same place . . .

Descriptions

BENJAMIN HEAZLE, 28 years, a native of Bandon, near Cork, Ireland. Dressed in a dark coatee, cut very full in the front, on frock fashion, a striped toilnette waistcoat, blue cloth pantaloons, a black beaver hat, long military boots, lisps a little, and has a strong Irish accent.

JOHN SERJEAUNT, 26 years a native of Newnham, Gloucestershire. Dressed in a dark fashionable corbean coat, with white metal buttons, a buff Kersymere waistcoat, light drab worsted pantaloons, military half boots, a black beaver hat, wide in the brim, and has a pleasing address.

(Gloucester Journal 24th August 1807)

H.G.B.

Illustration by courtesy of R.H.Q., The Gloucestershire Regiment.

and in consequence, and in the spirit of the times, Heazle demanded satisfaction and the two young officers agreed to settle their difference by a duel arranged to take place that evening at a time and place to be agreed. On their return to their lodgings Delmont sent for Lieutenant John Sargeaunt of the 61st Foot (2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment), a mutual friend of both officers, who attempted to effect a reconciliation but this proving impossible agreed with Heazle to act as a second and find a pair of pistols which took some time. Eventually two pistols were obtained through Thomas Howell, the landlord of the Green Dragon Inn in King Street who was also a blacksmith. One was a horse-pistol as issued to the volunteer cavalry in poor condition and rusty: a second, of similar type, but in a better state, was obtained from a confectioner named Partridge living in a lane now called Bedford Street. Both were handed to Lieutenant Sargeaunt who demanded and received ball and powder for them. William Hewlett, an employee of Thomas Howell was curious and followed Sargeaunt who disappeared in the direction of the Grange. Some time later a pistol shot was heard by George Bryant a labourer going to mow barley, and Hewlett nearby also heard this. Heazle and Sargeaunt were seen running from the grounds in an alarmed state and on the way Heazle met Mr Sweeting, the surgeon, and told him he had come to fetch him for that he had shot poor Delmont. Heazle then went to the White Hart Inn where his sergeant was billeted and was seen no more. It seems he set out on foot along the tow path of the Thames and Severn canal on his way to Cirencester and eventually arrived in London.

Sergeaunt ran to the Grange, the residence of Mr George Wathen, and informed him and then ran back to the field where Mr Sweeting arriving shortly afterwards, found him supporting Delmont who had been seriously wounded in the back. Delmont was conscious and enquired if he had fired his pistol. Mr Sweeting thought he had, but Hewlett who had by then arrived and was assisting said, 'No you did not: I heard only one report' to which Delmont replied 'Thank God I did not'. Sergeaunt returned to the Grange where he changed out of his regimental uniform and that night left in grief and despair on his horse for Cirencester and escaped abroad.

Delmont mortally wounded was examined by surgeons who could only conclude that he had been shot before completing his sixth pace and before he could turn to fire at his opponent. The same evening he told his friend Captain Barry, 'Barry, I was shot in the act of turning round: I forgive him and may God also forgive him!' Delmont lingered on for a few days and died on 18th August. On the following day a coroner's inquest was held and a verdict given of wilful murder against Heazle and Sargeaunt.

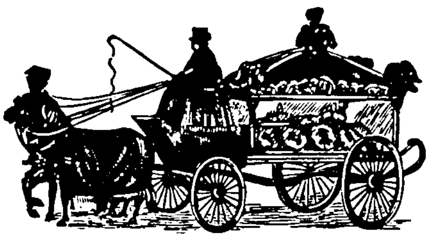
On Friday the 21st Lieutenant Delmont's funeral took place attended by his brother and several gentlemen of the neighbourhood. The parish officers at once put advertisements in the 'Hue and Cry' describing the two culprits and offering a reward of twenty guineas for apprehension of either of them. Thereafter the names of these officers were removed from the army list. It is believed that Heazle died in the West Indies soon after his escape, Sergeaunt went to America and some years later returned secretly to England to see his father. He went back to America and died there just as his friends were hoping to obtain his pardon.

OLD OLVESTON

(Discussions with Messrs. P. ADDIS and R. PITCHER — courtesy OLVESTON PARISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MR PITCHER DISCUSSED tradesmen in the Parish before the First World War. His family, he said, were in the building, mason and wheelwright trades. They had to cut down their own trees and saw timber in their own sawpit. Every tradesman had a saw-pit, and the two men concerned could cut with some accuracy. He mentioned a pit where Orchard Rise now stands and his Grand-father had one in Vicarage Lane. They made coffins in oak and elm. Mr Pitcher's Great-Grandfather was a wheelwright and cooper. Back in 1901 Mr Jarrett had a similar business in Tockington.

There were two saddlers shops at Olveston and at least three bakers: Mr E. Little, Mr Hicks and Mr Milliner. Mr Pitcher recalls Mr Organ making bread for the 'White Hart' and Mrs Little making a loaf the size of the counter which was put up for lottery. There were other bakers in Tockington. Bread was also occasionally distributed to the poor by the Church, but the First World War upset these traditions.



Concerning funerals, there were no wheeled biers in early days; horses cost money. Six men would carry the coffin from, say, Rudgeway, with a change of men where possible. Bearers, usually labourers, wore black arm-bands, black on their hats and kid-gloves. Later, wheeled biers were used pulled by Belgium black horses, two to a hearse; they wore black plumes on their heads and the coach-men wore frock dresses. A funeral could cost as much as £50, with twelve coaches and a hearse, twenty-six horses were needed and thirteen coachmen. The coachmen's reward was sometimes like a wedding feast, plenty of drink and food, a good time all round. Coaches and horses were a wonderful sight and the owners could be identified by their trappings; great care was always taken with polished harnesses, etc. Horses running away pulling a vehicle was a common sight and caused great thrills.

Mr Pitcher reported that Olveston was the first village in England to hold a Flower Show, it being the big annual event. There was entertainment and side-shows, always preceeded by a Church service. He recalled Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations at Old Down with the bonfire and rockets. The bonfire building was carried out with some skill by Squire Harford. It was built of hazel faggots resembling a huge stack with a tunnel through for the air. Three tar barrels were placed on the top.

Quarrying was quite an industry employing many men. The stone was mainly used for road repairs, it was unloaded and built into cairns on various sites on the roadside, with about six cubic yards per cairn. Stone crackers were employed to break up the stone for use and stone dressing was another important job. Semi-precious stones like shiny pebbles were sometimes discovered in the quarries and men came out from Bristol to buy them. He remembered the rifle range at Tockington at which Lord Cardigan taught some the use of the rifle, and Olveston School using the range on some occasions, also the last appearance of a stage coach on the return of Major Paget from the Boer War. When asked as to the possible whereabouts of the old Church font, he stated that parts of it were to be seen in the exterior walls of the 'White Hart'. In conclusion he said that he started school at Old Down Infants' School, and that Mr Addis began his schooling at Miss Parry's School in Olveston.

Mr Addis began his story with memories of Rev. James Vernon, a very dignified gentleman, austere, tall, with a white beard, but according to him, no preacher. The thickness of his notes in the vestry was often discussed by the choir before service, as his boring sermons lasted from thirty to forty minutes, and gentlemen in the congregation snapped their turnip watches very often to show their displeasure, with little effect. Mr Addis continued by discussing comments he had heard as a boy, one being that a member of the Cosham family was last in the stocks, and that on the occasion of Miss Osbourne's 101st birthday the ringers rang the bells in her honour, but the Vicar came into the tower and ordered the bells to be 'brought down' as Miss Osbourne was not a church woman. She, it was claimed, could recall a time when her family were afraid to sleep at night because of a threat of invasion by Napoleon. The Vicar organised choir outings, the funds being provided by various gentlemen in the Parish. The members of the Choir left Olveston by horse and trap about four in the morning to make their way to the station. For the return journey 'four-in-hands' were ordered using four to six horses, and horns were blown to herald their safe arrival home.

Mr Addis discussed the Church bells, and his Grandfather and Great-Grandfather who were vergers. On hearing of a death in the Parish his Father would go to the Church tower, and on the tenor bell toll three for a child, two for a male or one for a female, followed by about ten minutes on the tenor, called the 'passing bell'. This bell always caused some concern in the village, as parishioners would begin to question each other as to who might have died.

He recalled the installation of the eight bells, re-cast from the original six heavy bells, and the arrival of the new frames by road. The old bells were removed one by one through the tower floor and were mounted on rollers to be pushed to the Church door. These were loaded onto a cart, and a whole day was necessary to take one bell to Pilning. He recalled the controversy concerning the safety of the old bells, one being badly cracked, and the need for installation of new ones. After several months there was great excitement in the village as the new 'Ring of Eight' was risen for the first time. The old bells were hung by the crown, and the new ones hung in the modern manner. For many years following the Dedication Service there was great competition to ring the bells; ringing was taken very seriously, and young ringers found great difficulty in being given the opportunity to learn the art.

BOOK REVIEW

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NINETIES

by Kathleen Barker, Historical Association, Bristol University. 30p.

THIS DELIGHTFUL BOOKLET summarises vividly and with humour all the varied entertainment of the period, ranging from drama and opera to music hall, the circus, and the first beginnings of film. Princes Theatre in Park Row was the home of "legitimate drama", proudly showing Ellen Terry and her son Gordon Craig in "Nance Oldfield", and Henry Irving in Conan Doyle's "A Story of Waterloo". Although less serious plays were to be seen at the Theatre Royal, the fare sometimes overlapped and at one time two versions of "East Lynne" were to be seen at both theatres in the same week. Other notables who graced the boards in Bristol were Osmund Tearle, Frank Benson and his famous Shakespearian Company, and Mrs Patrick Campbell. The theatres were less viable than they are today and mortgages and bankruptcies were common. Melodrama involved a lot of audience participation, and the Bristol Evening News reported on 18.4.1899 about a sketch called "The Jaws of Death" . . . "(IT) appealed very strongly to the occupants of the gallery, and the villainy of the 'heavy man' was so cruel that some of the 'gods' became quite excited, and several times tried to warn the hero and heroine of the plot against them".

Circuses were very popular, and the booklet contains a delightful photograph of camels from Barnum's "The Greatest Show on Earth", parading down Baldwin Street in 1898, with the crowds in their boaters, and a magnificent hoarding advertising tea, mustard, soap and the latest variety performance at the Peoples' Palace.

The novelty of film was sometimes introduced in the two main theatres, but was more often seen in the Peoples' Palace. Here, where it was called "The American Biograph" there was one very popular sequence about Jumbo the Horseless Fire Engine. There were . . . "shout demands for its repetition. As it was impossible to rewind the film, Lauste obtained a second copy and spliced it into the sequence; next week therefore, the audience had its encore whether it would or no!".

Summing up the era, Kathleen Barker ends the booklet: "the greatest loss, which perhaps may yet be regained, is the widespread enthusiasm for live entertainment of all kinds; The greatest gain, though there is some danger of its dissipation, the restoration of the idea of a Bristol theatre which is felt to be truly part of Bristol and Bristolians."

This is the thirty-third pamphlet issued by this association, and the third contributed by Kathleen Barker.

M.M.

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